

SAMPLING METHODS AND ESTIMATION

The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service uses a variety of sampling techniques to produce current agricultural statistics about crops, livestock, prices, farm labor, and other information relating to the agricultural economy.

Data is collected, summarized and estimates are prepared. These estimates then pass through the Agricultural Statistics Board of the U. S. Department of Agriculture where, for major items, Hawaii estimates become part of National totals and enter the official data base for agriculture. National and State estimates are published according to a schedule set one year in advance.

The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service conducts many of its surveys by virtually complete **ENUMERATION** of certain parts of the population. This is unusual compared to procedures in other states but is feasible in Hawaii due to the relatively small size of certain categories of the farm universe or the extreme concentration of ownership. Vegetable and poultry surveys are among those where complete enumeration is the usual procedure.

LIST SAMPLING is a common means of data collection. Lists of farm operators are well suited for the low cost collection of information by mail. Supplementary information is included within the frame that allows the use of efficient stratified sample designs. A major disadvantage of this method is the constant change in the list frame which can never be perfect. In Hawaii, cattle, hog, macadamia nut and coffee surveys are examples of stratified list sample designs.

AREA FRAME SAMPLING can be used alone or in conjunction with the list frame. The frame consists of an aggregation of identifiable units of land or segments which may be sampled. The frame is complete and does not suffer the type of deterioration over time as does a list frame.

MULTIPLE-FRAME SAMPLING is the use of two frames. It takes advantage of the best attributes of the area frame and the list frame, produces unbiased estimates and allows measurement of the sampling error. This survey method is currently used for agricultural employment and wage rate surveys.

OBJECTIVE YIELD SURVEYS provide information from direct counts, measurements and weights of the crop made from small plots in a probability selection of sample fields.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA is used in addition to producer surveys to establish final production and marketings. These include processor receipts, slaughter, vacuum cooler volume, and inspections. Unloads at Honolulu and wholesale prices as reported by the Market Analysis and News Branch, are an important check data source.